



## ***PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT***

### ***Board Agenda Backup***

Item No: 11.3

**Date:** March 13, 2013


**Item: Appointment of Measure L School Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee**

**Overview:** State law requires districts with Proposition 39 school bond programs to establish a citizens' oversight committee (COC) appointed by the district's elected board of trustees. The purpose of the committee includes:

- To inform the public concerning the expenditure of bond revenues;
- To actively review and report on the proper expenditure of taxpayers' money for school construction;
- To advise the public as to whether the school district is in compliance with the requirements of the California Constitution with regard to bond expenditures;
- To monitor all bond related projects and expenditures approved by voters;
- To provide appropriate oversight and accountability to ensure funds are used as intended; and
- To report to members of the community on the progress of Measure L bond projects.

Duties of committee members will include:

- Providing oversight for ensuring that bond revenues are expended only for the purposes described in the California Constitution and Measure L bond language;
- Providing oversight for ensuring that, as prohibited by the California Constitution, no funds are used for any teacher or administrative salaries or other school operating expenses;
- Attending meetings and reading materials sent via email prior to meetings (all meetings are public held at a designated time - typically evenings, typically quarterly);
- Monitoring progress of bond projects and providing oversight for ensuring that funds are being spent according to bond language and state law;
- Receiving and reviewing copies of the annual performance and



financial audits as required by law; and

- Providing information to the public on the progress of bond projects and expenditures.

Staff notes that the COC is an oversight committee. The board of trustees retains its authority to govern all aspects of the bond program within the scope of the bond language approved by the board and ratified by voters in November, 2012. The COC has no authority to approve or disapprove bond related projects, scheduling, scope, or contacts. This authority resides with the elected board of trustees. The COC's scope and authority, as described in law, pertains only to the items outlined above.

Upon appointment, COC members will undergo extensive training on their roles and responsibilities. Additional training and refresher courses will be provided on an annual basis. The law also requires the COC to maintain a separate website, and adhere to the requirements of the Brown Act (open meetings).

### **Committee Make-up**

State law requires the committee to be no less than seven members. District staff recommends an 11 to 13 member committee. Per law, no district employees, elected officials, vendors, consultants, or private contractors may be members. Members must live within the jurisdiction of the district. Committee members are to represent designated interests in the community. These must, at a minimum, include one of the following:

- An active member of a business organization representing the business community within the District;
- An active member of a senior citizens' organization;
- An active member of a bona fide taxpayers' organization;
- An active parent member in a district parent-teacher organization; and
- A parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the district.

### **Recruitment process**

District staff partnered with Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA) to conduct eight-week recruitment for prospective COC members. This effort included notification on the district's website, press releases and press coverage, communiqués to various community organizations, communication to school sites, over 15 presentations to school sites and various community organizations, and notifications to COPA's 23 member institutions in the region.

Over 20 applications were submitted for consideration. District staff and COPA volunteers conducted interviews on March 1 with approximately 18 of the applicants in person or via telephone.





## Recommended appointees

District staff and COPA volunteers worked diligently to identify members that not only met the above required classifications, but also fairly represented the district's geographic and demographic characteristics. Staff and COPA representatives believe this was accomplished and recommend appointment of the following individuals:

Doug Keegan – Former PVUSD trustee member, long time Watsonville resident, immigration lawyer, children attended district schools, currently an AARP member (meets senior citizen's organization requirement – although he denies he's over 50!).

Rene Paz – Local business leader, president/member of the local chapter of the National Hispanic Realtors Association, president of the MacQuiddy Elementary Site Council, children attend same school, bilingual, active leader in various community organization and causes, Watsonville resident.

Silva Diaz – Local nonprofit professional, CFO to Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, bilingual, Watsonville resident, active in various community organizations and causes.

Juana Ponce – Bilingual, long time Royal Oaks resident, children attend district schools (Hall District?), parent volunteer at school and in class, professional experience as a medical assistant, member of COPA.

Ernest "Paul" Henderson – Retired agriculture industry professional, strong experience in land use issues, Aptos resident, three adult children attended district schools, recently retired and wants to give back to community, voted no on Measure L but respects the election outcome and wants to see the program be successful and meet the law – interview panel liked that he had concerns about Measure L, but would be a team player and positive member to the COC.

Regina Kelpert – Parent and active Valencia Elementary parent club member, active in various community organizations, active supporter and designer of Measure L, professional experience in public relations and marketing, meets district parent-teacher organization member requirement.

Brian Peoples – Parent of children enrolled in the district, wife is a teacher in district, leadership positions held in Aptos sports community and Aptos High Sports Foundation, systems engineer for Lockheed Corp, former environmental engineer with strong background in facility permitting requirements, meets parent requirement.

Shira Coleman – Alianza Charter school parent, professional experience in building design and architecture, strong team player, long time Watsonville resident, member of Alianza parent-teacher alliance, member of COPA.

Dan Johnson – Longtime Watsonville resident, both adult children are teachers in the district, retired as the VP for Admin/Finance for CSUMB, strong public sector construction and oversight experience, strong public finance experience, extensive experience in public sector facility planning.

Leonard English – Watsonville resident, bilingual, three children attend schools in the district, currently a coach for PV High football program, volunteers for other PV High activities, director of facilities at Watsonville Hospital, also member of a parent-teacher organization.

Daniel Dodge, Jr. – Bilingual, parent to two children in the district, active community member and leader, son of Watsonville councilmember, Watsonville resident.

Bill Beecher – Retired HP manager, Aptos resident, active community member and leader, member of the district's Fiscal and Facilities Advisory Committee, assisted in the design and development of Measure L, strong fiscal background, member of the AARP.

The above list of recommended appointees represents the geographic, demographic, and social characteristics of the district. In addition, it includes individuals with a diverse range of experiences and perspectives. Staff and COPA volunteers believe that they have assembled a committee of prospective appointees that will represent the district with distinction and ensure the success of the Measure L school bond program.


Staff notes that the interview panel continues to seek applicants that represent a local taxpayer organization. This effort will continue and a future appointment fitting this required category will be forthcoming. The district must appoint members to the COC within 60 days of certifying the bond election. The board certified the election results in mid-January. The board may make these appointments and continue recruitment for the final member and remain compliant with state law.

There is no direct fiscal impact to the district's General Fund resulting from this action.

**Recommendation:** Appoint members to the COC as recommended and continue recruitment for the final member.

**Prepared By:** Brett McFadden, CBO

**Superintendent's Signature:**

 for D. Baker